Tune Limit for Telephone Connection Recommended by M.P. out of his Priority Quota

789. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any direction from Government to the authorities to install telephones recommended by an MP out of his priority quota within a stipulated time;

(b) if so, what is that time limit and whether it is being sticked to; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to do so?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There is instruction from the Government to install the telephone connections recommended by an MP out is his priority quota within 30 days from the date of sanction subject to technical feasibility which is normally being sticked to.

(c) Does not arise.

Agreement with Qualcomm

790. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY: SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have an agreement with Qualcomm, a US based telecom unit for Qualcomm system of wireless-based telephone services without going through the normal tendering process;

(b) if so, the reasons for such hurry in reaching an agreement; and

(c) whether there was any other consideration like pressure from aid giving agencies etc?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) and (b) An MOU has been signed for technical cooperation between DOT and Ms Qualcomm for trials of wireless based telephone services on CDMA technology after due consideration into various technology options suitable to Indian environment.

(c) No, Sir.

Telephone and STD Facilities in Tribal and Remote areas of Bihar

791. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to provide telephone and STD facilities in the tribal and remote rural areas of Bihar;

(b) the number of telephones'STD facilities provided in such areas of the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have set forth some targets for such areas of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) Government is providing new exchanges, adding capacity and upgrading existing exchanges to give telephone connections and providing media to exchanges for giving STD faclilities in the tribal and rural areas of Bihar.

(b) The information is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Telecom, has set targets of providing 30,000 telephone connections and providing STD facilty in 25 exchanges in such areas of Bihar during 1997-98.